

## REMARKS

1. Claims 16-28 are allowed.

2. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected as anticipated by Dewald et al. Claims 3-15 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim (claim 1).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the restrictions from original claim 3 relative to the gradient regions in the filter. As noted by the Examiner, the prior art does not disclose the gradient structure of the filters of the present invention.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant now asserts that all of the grounds for rejection have been traversed or overcome by amendment, and that all of the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of the objections and rejections, and solicits allowance of the present claims at an early date.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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